NOES—24.

1	Sahib Bahadur P. Habeeb Mahomed.	14	Mr. A. J. John.
2	Mr. K. I. Joseph,	15	,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.
3	,, S. Gnana Joshua.	16	,, Changanachery K. Paramesvaran Pillai.
4	,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.	17	,, S. Piraviperumal Pillai.
5	,, A. K. Pillai.	18	,, G. Raman Menon.
6	,, N. Kumaran.	19	,, K. Sivarama Panikkar.
7	,, T. Kumara Pillai.	20	,, M. Sivatanu Pillai.
8	,, X. G. Lopez.	21	,, S. Subrahmanya Karayular,
9	,, K. Madhavan Pillai.	22	,, M. Subrahmanya Pillai.
10	,, G. Narayana Pillai.	23	,, C. P. Tarakan.
11	,, Kallur Narayana Pillai.	24	,, C N. Tuppan Nambutiri.
12	,, K. P. Nilakanta Pillai.		
13	,, M. N. Pillai.		

NEUTRAL.—1.

Mr. R. Padmanabhan.

The motion was declared lost.

DEMAND III—EXCISE DEPARTMENT.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Sir, I rise to move for an additional allotment of Rs. 25,000 under III B. Salt—transport charges of salt—to meet the cost of the transport of 2 lakhs of maunds of salt from Tamaracolam to Quilon. At the time of the preparation of the budget for 1101, *viz.*, Minam last, the prospects of salt manufacture in Tamaracolam were so unsatisfactory owing to unseasonal rains and the output of salt till then was so poor, that I did not expect that we should have more than one lakh of maunds of salt for transport to Quilon. Hence a sum of Rs. 30,000 only was provided under this head. Conditions, however, improved towards the end of the year and there is now a quantity of 2 lakhs of maunds of salt for transport to Quilon. At the lowest tender rate obtained recently, I find that a sum of Rs. 54,710 would be required for transporting 2 lakhs of maunds of salt to Quilon. There is an allotment of Rs. 30,000 already. A sum of Rs. 25,000 more is therefore wanted and I hope the House will be so good as to sanction this amount. The expenditure under this head is only in the nature of an advance, since the money spent will be recovered when the salt is sold.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner how many rupees have been sanctioned by this House for the transport of salt from Tamaracolam to Quilon?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : Rs. 30,000.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): For how many maunds of salt?

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MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): One lakh.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): The Commissioner wants provision for another lakh of maunds.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I ask the Excise Commissioner whether this amount is required in anticipation of new production?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No. It is intended for the salt manufactured already.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): May I know whether he was not aware of the existence of salt?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I have told the House that I was not aware. At the time the budget estimate was prepared, the output of salt was poor.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know from Mr. Van Ross whether there was any previous occasion when a lakh of maunds of salt was transported from Tamaracolam to Quilon?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am sorry, Sir, I did not hear what the member said.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I want to know whether, on any previous occasion, one lakh of maunds of salt was transported to Quilon directly from Tamaracolam.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): About 75,000 maunds were transported last year.

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): May I know the actual amount spent on that?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): At the rate of—

MR. C. P. KOCHUKUNJU PILLAI (*Kottarakara* cum *Kunnattur*): I do not want the rate, but I want the actual amount.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It was transported at the rate of Rs. 26 for 100 maunds. It is only a matter of calculation.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner whether he wants to transport the salt now in stock or the salt to be manufactured hereafter?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Only the salt now in stock.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencottah*): It is stated here in the printed list of demands for supplementary grants as follows:—

"To cover the transport charges to Quilon of an additional one lakh of maunds of salt expected to be produced."

Is that a mistake?

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MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I am not responsible for that. Probably it was a clerical mistake,

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): What is the stock now in the Tamaracolam Factory?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioer*): I have not got the figures.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I want at least a rough idea as to the amount of salt due to Government.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): It will be much more than two lakhs of maunds.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): So you are going to arrange for the trahsport of all the two lakhs of maunds of salt to Quilon.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Yes.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): May I know from the Excise Commissioner whether he has at any time recommended to Government to keep at least two lakhs of maunds of salt to cover some unforeseen contingencies in South Travancore?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No; but I always keep a reserve of Government salt in the factories.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): How many lakhs of maunds?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That will depend upon the conditions; a lakh in some year, 50,000 in another year or a little more in some other year.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) Does the member recommend to Government every year?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): I do not get Government permission to reserve a stock every year.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) Has he not recommended to Government to keep a reserve of two lakhs of maunds every year at the Tamaracolam Factory?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No, I have not.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) He has.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): No, I have not.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) May I know from the Government—

PRESIDENT: Mr Van Ross has definitely stated that he has no recommended it.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*) Shall I prove it, Sir?

He has recommended to Government "that the quantity of two lakhs of maunds of salt—"

PRESIDENT: May I ask what you are quoting from?

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MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I am opposing the motion on the ground that he recommended to Government—

PRESIDENT: He has definitely told you that he has not.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): There is a letter that I have, which will prove what I say.

PRESIDENT: From whom to whom?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): It is a copy of a letter from the Excise Commissioner to the Government.

PRESIDENT: How did you get it? Was it sent to you officially?

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): No, I got it.

PRESIDENT: Then you are liable in the matter of official secrets.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Sir, I got the letter and I assert that the contents are true.

PRESIDENT: Did the letter blow into your office? You cannot produce a document unless it is in your possession and you have obtained it through the proper channel.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALAR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): Then I withdraw.

PRESIDENT: You were entirely out of order in reading a document which you obtained, or which has come into your hands, wrongfully.

I must also ask you to withdraw the passage you read, unless you can vouch for its accuracy.

MR. S. SUBRAHMANYA KARAYALR (*Pattanapuram* cum *Shencotta*): I withdraw it.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): In view of the fact that a sum of Rs. 30,000 has already been sanctioned for transport charges of one lakh of maunds of salt from Tamaracolam to Quilon and also in view of the fact that, from the statement already made by the Excise Commissioner, only Rs. 26 is necessary for carrying 100 maunds of salt from Tamaracolam to Quilon

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): That was according to last year's contract. This year we require Rs. 26—14 as. for transporting 100 maunds of salt.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): May I know how this difference was brought about?

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*): Tenders were called for and the lowest tender was Rs. 26—14 as.

MR. K. SIVARAMA PANIKKAR (*Shertallai*): Since the Excise Commissioner says that tenders have been invited, I do not object to the grant.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*): Sir, I do not oppose the motion; but I want to make a suggestion. I am giving only a new

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tune to an old cry about what this unnecessary item of expenditure means.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the member opposes the motion ?

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I am not opposing the motion, but am only making a suggestion. It is quite possible to avoid year after year this unnecessary expenditure on transport charges, if Government could make the necessary arrangements for producing salt in centres near Quilon.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : I am sorry the member has not understood the situation. The salt manufactured at Tamaracolam has to be transported to Quilon. In Quilon, there are no facilities for manufacturing salt. Besides this, the money spent will be realised by the sale of salt.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : I may remind the Government that, in various sessions of the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, representatives of Kayankulam and Kartikapalli have proved to the Government that it is quite possible to manufacture salt in centres near Kayankulam.

MR. A. J. VAN ROSS (*Excise Commissioner*) : The salt produced at Kayankulam was condemned years ago as bad salt.

MR. A. K. PILLAI (*Karunagapalli*) : That is a question open to discussion.

PRESIDENT : May I take it that the House grants the demand ?

The grant was made.

DEMAND VII—GENERAL ADMINISTRATION—HUZUR CUTCHERRY, ETC.

MR. K. NARAYANAN PANDALAY (*Ag. Chief Secretary to Government*) : Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 450 to meet the extra expenditure to be incurred by Government for continuing the office of the Special Officer and the staff for one and a half months from the 16th Tulam 1101. This House is aware that a Special Officer was appointed for a period of 6 months from the 15th Medam, 1100. The work assigned to that Special Officer was to submit proposals to the Government for the devolution of disciplinary and administrative powers as regards the several departments of the State and also proposals as regards the fixing, collection and remittance of items of revenue pertaining to the several departments. At first, the Special Officer was Dewan Peishkar, Mr. M. V. Subrahmanya Aiyar. He worked for about two and a half months and then he was succeeded by Mr. N. Nilakanta Pillai. Before he left work, Mr. M. V. Subrahmanya Aiyar had already submitted his proposals for about seventeen departments ; and since he left, Mr. Nilakanta Pillai has been continuing the work and he has sent proposals for about nine more departments. He has stated that his reports on the Land Revenue and the Excise

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